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John Mudge...

FIRST SETTLERS OF PLYMOUTH, VERMONT

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Our former President, Calvin Coolidge, has recently written the story of his life which is now published in book form. In one of the opening chapters Mr. Coolidge tells something of the history of Plymouth, portrays his ancestors and gives a vivid word picture of the scenes of his childhood.

Impressed by what Mr. Coolidge has written, the compiler of this article has assembled other data in regard to the early history of Plymouth which connects it with the town of Danvers, Massachusetts.

Mr. Coolidge says that his first ancestor there was Calvin Coolidge and that he settled in 1780. He goes on to say that the "early settlers of Plymouth appear to have come mostly from Massachusetts. As a matter of fact one of these men, John Mudge, once of Danvers, was the first settler on record of Plymouth, and his wife, Hannah Mudge, was a Danvers woman.

John Mudge was born in Malden, Mass., Dec. 3, 1747, and he died in Plymouth, Vt., November, 1822, aged 75 years. He was a descendant of Thomas Mudge who came from England and settled in Malden by, and probably before, 1657. His parents were John Mudge and Mary W. Some time after 1740 the family moved from Malden to Plymouth.

In the early days of the town of the Colony and in the people were poor and it became a law that every settler was to be "helped out." Nothing was more common than to see a settler in these war-torn days. But after a period of time the settlers were able to become a town charge.

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John M. ...
PLYMOUTH VERMONT
FIRST SETTLERS OF

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In September, 1923, John Mudge and Hannah Hutchinson,
and this date was the first time that
he came and where he was born.

JOHN MUDGE AND HANNAH HUTCHINSON, FIRST SETTLERS OF PLYMOUTH, VT.

On Dec. 1, 1743, it is recorded that John Mudge of
Malden was "taken in" by Lydia, born Feb. 24, 1743.

COMPILED BY FLORENCE A. MUDGE

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its "death blow."

JOHN MUDGE AND HANNAH HUTCHINSON, FIRST SETTLERS OF PLYMOUTH, VT.

Compiled by FLORENCE A. MUDGE

The little town of Plymouth, Vermont, in the Green Mountains near the centre of the State, has, in the last few years, been many times brought conspicuously to the public mind. The reason is known to everyone. On the morning of Aug. 3rd, 1893, Plymouth, Vermont, became known as the birthplace of a President of the United States, and the town must ever now have an honor all its own.

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John Mudge was born in Malden, Mass., Dec. 8, 1747, and he died in Plymouth, Vt., in November, 1823, aged 75 years. He was a descendant of Thomas Mudge who came from England and settled in Malden by, and probably before, 1657. His parents were John Mudge and Mary Wainwright of Malden. Of their nine children he was the fourth. Some time after 1718 this family moved from Malden to Lynnfield (then Lynn).

In these early times all the towns of the Colony and now of the State were poor, and so it became a law that every newcomer to a place should be "warned out." Nothing was implied in these warnings. But after a person had once been warned, the town could not be held responsible if he were ever liable to become a town charge.

In September, 1764, John Mudge received his "warning," and this date fixes the time he located in Danvers. Why he came and where he lived has not been discovered.

On Dec. 1, 1766, it is recorded that Lydia Mudge of Malden was "taken in" by him. She was doubtless his sister Lydia, born Feb. 28, 1742.

Hannah Hutchinson was a true product of Danvers, being born in old Salem Village (now Danvers) about 1742. She died in Plymouth, Vermont, March 26, 1808, aged 66. Her parents were William Hutchinson and Joanna Trask, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth (Sallows) Trask of Beverly.

The identity of Hannah is established, her birth date not being found, from comparing her known death record with other records. The probate record in Salem, as an abstract, states that William Hutchinson died intestate and that on April 14, 1757, guardianship of his daughter, Hannah, a minor above fourteen years of age, was granted to Noah Creesy of Beverly who had married her mother's sister, Rebecca Trask.

Also from a study of the Hutchinson Genealogy, compiled by Perley Derby of Salem in 1870, and a process of elimination there, this Hannah Hutchinson proves to be the only one who could fit the question in hand. (See Page 16.)

She is of the fifth generation from Richard Hutchinson, the immigrant, who came to America and settled in Salem Village in 1634, and who became a large land owner in the region of Whipple's Hill and Hathorne's Hill. Her line of descent from him is as follows: Richard¹, Joseph², John³, William⁴. All of these Hutchinson men had farms on the original homestead.

Whipple's Hill is now bordered by Maple, Pine, Hobart and Forest Streets. Hathorne's Hill is now crowned by a Massachusetts State Hospital for the Insane.

William Hutchinson, a brother of Hannah's, was a blacksmith in Danvers, and his shop stood at the time of his death in October, 1771, on land belonging to Samuel Endicot.

Hannah's great-grandfather, Joseph 2, in 1672, gave the land for the first meeting-house in Salem Village. It stood just beyond what is now the residence of A. W. Carr at 177 Hobart St., and later this road came to be called the "Meeting-House Road."

It was in this church and parish that the Salem Witchcraft delusion in 1692 arose and spread, and it was here, too, as Mr. Upham, the historian, says, that witchcraft received its "death blow."

This same Joseph Hutchinson and his son John lived through this period, and the former appears to have been an active participant.

He divided his property before he died, giving fifty acres in May, 1694, to his son John at the time of his (first) marriage to Mary Gould. John's second wife, Hannah Howard, however, was the grandmother of Hannah, the subject of this sketch.

Rev. Charles W. Upham in his "History of Witchcraft and Salem Village" places John Hutchinson's house, in 1692, on the site of what was, in 1867, the George Peabody house, and is now the present Endicott Mansion; the late Sidney Perley of Salem also locates John Hutchinson's fifty acres in approximately the same neighborhood. (See Map of Salem Village, Danvers Hist. Collections, Vol. 6, Opp. page 33.)

In addition to these eminent authorities, the writer herself went through some of the Deeds in Salem. The Deed of Joseph H. to his son, John, of the fifty acres, gives as one boundary "ye brook . . . which brook is the dividing bounds betwixt John Darling's and my land." (Deeds, Book 19, Leaf 106.)

This lot then included the "Wolfe pitts meadow." The meadow may now be there, but the "wolfe pitts" are no more.

"Ye brook" of 1694 is still running on. Its course now is mostly through Endicott lands and meadows until it flows into Beaver Brook. At one place it runs under the Newburyport turnpike and at another under Ingersoll Street.

John Darling's house, built about 1680, stood on Newbury Street, opposite Ingersoll Street. It was later known as the Dr. Prince house. It now stands at 177 Hobart Street.

On March 23, 1735, there was conveyed to William Hutchinson and his wife, Joanna, the land and buildings which in earlier years had been the homestead of Capt. Jonathan Walcott. This farm adjoined John Hutchinson's and had the training field for another of its boundaries, which places it on the present Ingersoll Street.

John Hutchinson, in turn, March 1, 1736-7, gave to his son William "one half of my land and meadow but including but one third of my orcharding, the western end of my house and ye one half of my barn as it is situated in Salem." (Deeds, Book 86, Page 312.)

According to these tracings, the Hannah Hutchinson of

whom we are writing probably grew to womanhood on some of the beautiful acres now belonging to William Crowninshield Endicott, Esq., on Ingersoll Street.

On the side of her mother, Hannah Hutchinson belonged to the Trask family of Beverly. Her mother, Joanna, was the daughter of Joseph, and the granddaughter of Osmund Trask of Royal Side.

Her grandfather, Osmund, the original settler, was a "planter, who about 1653 lived on the lane leading from Conant Street, toward Cape Ann, southerly of the Cherry Hill farm."

On that same lane there is standing now an ancient house of the Trask family, owned and occupied by Joseph W. Trask, the youngest of twelve children all born there. On March 22, 1930, he will have reached his ninetieth milestone.

This is not supposed to have been the house of Osmund Trask. But it is known to have been standing there in 1692 and was then owned by one John Trask, and it has always been in the Trask family.

Could the walls of this house but speak they might tell us that John Mudge and his young wife were among those who often entered its portals and gathered about its hearthstones.

The marriage intention of John Mudge and Hannah Hutchinson is recorded in Danvers under date of Feb. 8, 1766. Their "Bans" are dated Feb. 9, Feb. 16, and Feb. 23, which means that they were "published" from the pulpit of the North Parish Meeting-house on these successive Sundays. This would be the meeting-house of 1701-1785, built on "Watch-house Hill," on the site of the present First Church building, but facing the "Old Meeting-House Road."

On Feb. 25, this couple received their "certificate" (license). After all these preliminaries, it was not until May 13 that they were really married. The record reads that they were both of Danvers and that Rev. Peter Clark officiated. Whether illness or a quarrel intervened is left for us to conjecture.

A first child, Hannah, was born in Danvers Feb. 17, 1767; a second, Mary, Feb. 13, 1769.

Some time later in this same year of 1769 the family moved to the new five-year-old town of Fitchburg, Mass.

It was John Mudge's brother, Simon, who in 1773 settled permanently in Danvers and became the ancestor of the Danvers branch of the Mudge clan. Another brother, Ezra, was an early settler of Wilmington, Vt.

The first mention of John Mudge in the "old town records" of Fitchburg is on March 5, 1770, when he and John Buss were appointed "Fire Wards."

The family remained in Fitchburg for about ten years. In 1779, presumably in the summer time, another move was made, this time to Plymouth, Vt. (then called Saltash).

Besides the parents there were now four or five young children to be transported. Nothing is known of this journey, but it was, perhaps, by ox team, and probably by way of old Fort No. 4 at Charlestown, New Hampshire.

Right here, it must be said that Mr. Alfred Mudge of the former firm of Alfred Mudge & Son, printers of Boston, prepared and issued in 1868, a Genealogy of the Mudge Family which he called "Mudge Memorials." Much of his work was done necessarily from original sources, and he has the reputation of having been a careful researcher. His book has been resorted to many times in the preparation of this article. A history of Windsor County, Vt., published in 1891, has also been consulted, and the two works agree in the main points about John Mudge and his settlement at Plymouth.

Mr. Alfred Mudge visited Plymouth previous to 1868, and following is given his own account of John Mudge:—

"He was a farmer, and lived in Fitchburg, Mass., until after his third child was born. He then removed into the wilds of Vermont and settled in the town of Plymouth, then called Saltash. He bought for £300 the right of Enos Stearns, one of the sixty-four proprietors named in the Charter of that town. His deed dated Nov. 7, 1779, is the first on record in the town books. He was the first settler, and his son, William, was the first male child born in the town. He also bought one half of Sheal Smith's right in town of Ludlow, next adjoining Plymouth; deed dated Sept. 9, 1779. His original farm was on the borders of Ludlow, near the large pond, on the main road from Plymouth.

"The original grant or patent from King George was dated June 8, 1779, and the charter of the town was given by Benning Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire. First town meeting held in 1782, three years after John Mudge and family came in. Sept. 22, 1787, he deeds eighty acres of land to his daughters, Hannah and Mary 'jointly for their use.' June 9, 1788, he sells land to his son-in-law, Paul Sawyer. John and Martin Mudge witness the deed. April 26, 1791, he sells one hundred and twenty acres to his brother Ezra, of Wilmington, Vt.

"Mr. Cephas Moore, for many years town clerk of Plymouth, informed the writer that John Mudge told him that when he first settled there, as he had no hay or grain to keep a horse, he was obliged to 'back his grist to mill,' a distance of ten miles, through the woods, guided by marked trees. Taking two bags of two bushels each, he would take one and carry it forward till fatigued, put it down, and return for the other, resting himself by the walk back, then shoulder the second bag and carry it forward past the first and so continue to do until both were safe in the mill. Waiting for them to be ground, he would take them back in the same manner. Black salts, or potash, was a staple commodity of that day; and in its manufacture, a large iron kettle was necessary to boil down the ashes. This kettle he was obliged to carry fifteen miles into his settlement, on his shoulders, by letting the rim rest upon his forehead. Such were the toils of our early settlers."

The following is what Alfred Mudge said about William Mudge:

"William Mudge was the first male child born in Plymouth, then the town of Saltash. The original proprietors of the town agreed to give the first-born male child an hundred acres of land; but it appears from the records of the town that he never received the deed, for in May, 1825, he sells his right to the same, to Amasa Wood, by agreement of that date, at which time, he sold his other lands and removed to Newfane, N. Y."

The agreement reads as follows:

"Plymouth May 28, 1825. This may certify to whom it may concern that William Mudge has this day deeded to Amasa Wood, one hundred acres of land in Plymouth, County of Windsor, and State of Vermont. Said land was granted to the said Mudge by the Original Proprietors of said town, he being the first born male child in said town. Now in case the said Amasa Wood should find the compliment of land that the said Mudge has deeded to him, or any part thereof, the said Wood is to pay the said Mudge one half of the value of the land that he gets into his possession."

"Amasa Wood. (Seal).

"Attest Cephas Moore.

Recorded, May 28, 1825.

"C Moore, Town Clerk"

It is interesting to note here how the 186 years since the birth of John Mudge have been, it would seem, so quickly spanned.

Mr. Coolidge, born in 1872, says that he "knew the Cephas Moore" (mentioned above). This Mr. Moore, town clerk of Plymouth, was born in 1794 and died in 1881. And we have the testimony of Alfred Mudge, the genealogist, born in Portsmouth, N. H., in 1809, that Mr. Cephas Moore had known and talked with John Mudge.

Briefly stated, it can be said that Mr. Coolidge knew a man who had been acquainted with John Mudge, who was born in Malden, Mass., in 1743.

John Mudge was one of seven brothers, all of whose names are on the Roll of Honor. The oldest one, Samuel, served in the Old French War under Lord Jeffery Amherst, and was either killed or died in Canada. The other six served in the Revolutionary War. Two of them, Enoch and Simon, were at the battle of Lexington. The names of four of them, Simon, Enoch, Nathan and Samuel, the second, appear on the Ticonderoga Rolls.

John's record shows that he was a private from Fitchburg, Mass., that he enlisted June 26, 1778, and that he served for about six months during 1778, in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. (See *Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*. Volume 11, pages 183 and 184).

Mr. Coolidge in his autobiography tells of a military road built from Charlestown, N. H., to Fort Ticonderoga in New York, by Gen. Amherst at the time of the Old French War, which passed through a section of Plymouth. This road was built along an old Indian trail to Canada. Over it some of the soldier brothers of John Mudge must have passed. His brother Simon marched from Danvers to Fort Ticonderoga in the summer of 1776 over this route, for he kept a journal on this march which has been preserved.

This march to the "Continental army towards Canady," began July 30, 1776, 26 days after the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.

No. 4, as Charlestown, N. H., was then called, was reached on Aug. 5th, 121 miles from Danvers.

All soldiers to the French and Indian and Revolutionary Wars were here transported over the Connecticut River by way of the Wentworth Ferry.

"Aug. 7, 1776," the journal reads, "marched from No. 4 on our way for Ticondroga. Came to the ferry-house. Clost

to the ferry Entread New York governmt and Springfield town" (Springfield, Vt.)

"Aug. 8, 1776"—the journal goes on—"Proceeded to Coffin's Tavern in which I tarried this night. . . . This day's march was beyond Conception being chiefly up hill all the way and the road almost 50 yards distance was a Dismal Slow Enouf to bury a hors at a step. However our horses made shift to get through them. This day's march 19 miles."

Coffin's Tavern was in Cavendish, Vt., and a house where thousands of American soldiers stopped during the Revolutionary War.

Ludlow and Plymouth were the next adjoining towns.

One may wonder why John Mudge, Capt. John Coolidge, Enos Stearns and all the others should leave settlements like Danvers, or Fitchburg, or Watertown in Massachusetts, and trek to this northern wilderness to build and live in those log cabins, remnants of which Mr. Coolidge remembers seeing in his boyhood.

But history tells us that the new and fertile lands along the river valleys of Vermont could be had cheaply, and "tempted the soldiers to return and bring others with them" to make settlements along the Crown Point Military Road.

From 1777 to 1791 Vermont remained independent, not joining the Federation until March 4, 1791. The settlers who came during those years escaped paying the heavy debts and taxes due to the Revolutionary War, and this was another inducement for migration.

After the death of his wife, Hannah, in 1808, John Mudge married the widow, Phebe Harris, of Reading, Vt.

His children by Hannah Hutchinson were:

1. Hannah, born Danvers, Feb. 17, 1767. Married Capt. Paul Sawyer. She died in Royalton, N. Y., Aug. 23, 1828.

2. Mary, born Danvers, Feb. 13, 1769 (perhaps died young).

3. Martin, born Fitchburg, about 1770. Married Elizabeth Avery of Plymouth, Vt., in 1794. Died in Shrewsbury, Vt., 1839.

4. John, born Fitchburg, March 14, 1775. Married Emma White, 1797, daughter of William White of Marlboro, Vt. He died June 5, 1834, in Hartland, N. Y.

5. Lydia, born Fitchburg, Aug. 1, 1777. Married (1) Joseph Cross of Plymouth in 1801. She died March 3, 1847, at Yates, N. Y., the wife of Thomas Wells.

6. Mary, born 1779. Married Ebenezer Wilder. She died in Mt. Holly, Vt., in 1821, aged 42.

7. William, born Plymouth, Vt., July 7, 1781. Married Abigail Avery of Plymouth, Feb. 27, 1805. He died Oct. 8, 1854, in Newfane, N. Y.

Many descendants of John and Hannah were born in Plymouth. They and their migrations may be traced in "Mudge Memorials" down to about 1865 through other towns in Vermont and New York State and on to the middle west.

This is the story of one Vermont pioneer but it is typical of many others.

1918-1919. The following table shows the results of the
survey of the medical profession in the United States for the
year 1918. It is based on the data furnished by the
American Medical Association, and is published for the
information of the public. The table is divided into two
parts, the first showing the results of the survey for the
year 1918, and the second showing the results of the
survey for the year 1919. The data are given in
percentages, and are based on the total number of
physicians in the United States for each year. The
results of the survey for the year 1918 are as follows:

CHICAGO

THE PUTNAM ANCESTRY OF HON. CALVIN COOLIDGE

COMPILED BY FLORENCE A. MUDGE

In a recent book published by David Starr Jordan, the descent of Hon. Calvin Coolidge from John Putnam of Danvers was given. The record contained several serious defects and errors and the writer was asked to make corrections and present the result for publication in our Collections, which she has done. Members of the Danvers Historical Society will be glad to learn that our distinguished ex-President is a descendant of one of the old worthies of Salem and Danvers. The following record of descent has been verified by Mr. Coolidge:

I. JOHN PUTNAM was baptized 17 January 1579 at Wingrave, and came from Aston Abbots, Bucks Co., England, to New England about 1640. He married Priscilla, whose maiden name was probably Deacon. He died in Salem Village (now Danvers) 30 December 1662. In 1640 he had a grant of 100 acres of land in that part of Salem which is now Danvers.

II. NATHANIEL PUTNAM was baptized at Aston Abbots 11 October 1619. He died 23 July 1700 at Salem Village. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Hutchinson of Salem. She died in 1688 aged 60 years. His homestead was not far from the site of the present George O. Putnam place at 33 Holten St., Danvers.

He was the second signer to the Covenant of the Church of Christ at Salem Village, November 19, 1689.

III. DEACON BENJAMIN PUTNAM, also known as Captain Putnam, was born Dec. 24, 1664 in Salem Village. He died about 1715. The latest authorities state that his first wife was Sarah Tarrant and that she was the mother of the children. (See Danvers Hist. Collections, Vol. 10, page 35.) She died in 1705.

He was Deacon of the church in Salem Village for nine years, and he is supposed to have lived in the present Putnamville section of Danvers.

IV. TARRANT PUTNAM was born April 12, 1688 in Salem Village; died in 1732 or 1733; married June 8, 1715, Eliza-

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

The University of Chicago is a private, non-sectarian, coeducational institution of higher learning. It was founded in 1837 and is one of the oldest and most distinguished universities in the United States. The University is organized into several divisions, including the College of Arts and Sciences, the Divinity School, the Law School, the Graduate School of Business, and the School of Education. It is also home to several world-renowned research centers and libraries.

The University of Chicago is a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) and the Association of Christian Colleges and Universities (ACCU). It is also a member of the Ivy League and the Big Ten Conference. The University is ranked among the top universities in the world by several major ranking organizations, including U.S. News & World Report and the Times Higher Education Supplement.

The University of Chicago is a leader in research and scholarship. It has produced many of the most influential scientists, scholars, and leaders of the 20th century. The University is also a center for the arts and humanities, with a strong tradition of excellence in these fields. The University's commitment to research and scholarship is reflected in its policies and procedures, which are designed to support the highest quality of academic work.

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CHICAGO

beth, daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Giles) Bacon, born Nov. 26, 1695 at Billerica.

He inherited his father's homestead.

V. DEACON TARRANT PUTNAM, born Salem Village April 3, 1716; died at Sutton, Mass., Aug. 27, 1794. married Dec. 9, 1742, Priscilla Baker, daughter of Lieut. Thomas and Mary Baker of Topsfield, born Aug. 4, 1724. She died March 16, 1812 at Sutton.

Deacon Tarrant appears to have been in Sutton by 1744, and he joined the church there by letter from Danvers in 1747. He owned a large tract of land in Sutton.

VI. PRISCILLA PUTNAM, born Aug. 22, 1751 at Sutton; married Dec. 3, 1772 at Sutton, Adam Brown, Jr., of Ipswich.

Sergt. Adam Brown was a Revolutionary Soldier of New Hampshire and an early settler of Plymouth, Vt., where he was elected town clerk in 1787. He died in 1840.

VII. ISRAEL PUTNAM BROWN was baptized at Sutton, Mass., in 1792. He lived in Plymouth, Vt., and died there in 1867 aged 86; married Sally Briggs, at Plymouth, October 7, 1799.

VIII. SALLY BRIGGS BROWN, born Plymouth, Vt., Feb. 4, 1801. Married Israel Chase Brewer. He was the son of Eliab, who was the son of Colonel Samuel Brewer of Rutland, Mass. Eliab and his wife Sallie (Rice) Brewer are buried in Ludlow, Vt.

IX. SARAH ALMEDA BREWER, born Ludlow, Vt., Dec. 17, 1823, died Plymouth, Vt., Jan. 2, 1906. Married March 3, 1844 Calvin Galusha Coolidge, born Sept. 22, 1815, Plymouth; died Dec. 15, 1878.

She was Calvin Coolidge's grandmother. Quoting from his book he says of her:

"When she married my grandfather she was 20 and he was 28 years old. She was accustomed to tell me that from his experience and observations he had come to have great faith in good blood, and that he chose her for his wife not only because he loved her, but because her family, which he had seen for three generations, were people of ability and character. While he would have looked upon rank as only pretense he looked upon merit with great respect."

X. COL. JOHN CALVIN COOLIDGE, born March 31, 1845, Plymouth, Vt.; died March 18, 1926; married May 6, 1868 Victoria Josephine Moor, daughter of Hiram D. and Abigail (Franklin) Moor. She was born at Plymouth March 14, 1846, and died March 14, 1885.

XI. HON. CALVIN COOLIDGE, born July 4, 1872, Plymouth, Vt. Married Oct. 4, 1905 Grace A. Goodhue, daughter of Andrew I. and Lemira (Barrett) Goodhue.

Calvin Coolidge was President of the United States from August 1923 to March 1929.

XII. COL. JOHN COOLIDGE, born Sept. 7, 1906, Northampton, Mass. Married Sept. 23, 1929 Florence Trumbull, daughter of Governor and Mrs. John H. Trumbull of Plainville, Conn.

The Royal Descent of John Putnam may be found on Page 134, Volume Eleven, of the Danvers Historical Collections.

